

**ABSTRACT**

An intelligent network security device ("INSD") (10) operates in a local area network ("LAN") (12) according to an intelligent network security method (30). The LAN (12) has a plurality of computers (14) and connects to the internet (16) through a firewall (18). The INSD (10) resides within the LAN (12) such that data traversing between the LAN (12) and the internet (16) is accessible thereto. The INSD (10) looks for code and patterns of behavior and assigns a value to perceived attempted security breaches. The INSD (10) then directs the firewall (16) to take any of a prescribed plurality of actions, based upon such value.

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